

REMARKS - General

By the above amendments, applicants have amended claim 6-7 and 9-10; cancelled claims 2-5, 12-15, and 17 without prejudice; and add new claims 21-30.

In the changes made to the claims by the current amendment, ~~deletions are shown by strikethrough, and additions are underlined~~.

Discussion of Claims Objections - 37 CFR 1.75(c)

Claims 2-4 and 17 have been cancelled.

Discussion of Claims Rejections - 35 USC §102

Claims 2-4 and 12-15 have been cancelled. For claim 1, a timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) is herein used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground.

Discussion of Claims Rejections - 35 USC §103

Claim 5 has been cancelled. Claims 7 and 9-10 have been amended to depend on an amended independent claim 6 which is allowable, while claim 8 is dependent on the amended claim 7.

Discussion of Double Patenting

For claims 1, 7 and 8, a timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) is herein used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground. Applicants certify that the subject matter of the various claims in this patent application was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein was made absent any evidence to the contrary.

Discussion of New Claims

Applicants have added new Claims 21-30.

New apparatus Claims 24-30 all depend either directly or indirectly from Claim 16, which the Examiner has found to contain allowable subject matter. The additional elements in dependent claims 24-30 correspond in wording to cancelled or amended claims 9-10, and 12-15, respectively.

New method Claims 21-23 all depend directly from Claim 20, which the Examiner has found to contain allowable subject matter. The additional elements in dependent claims 21-23 correspond in wording to 17, 12, and 13, respectively. Accordingly, each of new Claims 21-30 is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 16-20 are allowed. Claim 6 is amended to be allowable by rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 11 is a dependent claim on the amended independent claim 6.

Conclusion and Conditional Request For Constructive Assistance

For all of the above reasons, applicants submit that claims are now in proper form, and that the claims all define patentably over the prior art. Therefore they submit that this application is now in condition for allowance, which action they respectfully solicit.

Applicants have amended the claims of this application so that they are proper, definite, and define novel structure which is also unobvious. If, for any reason, this application is not believed to be in full condition for allowance, applicants respectfully request the constructive assistance and suggestions of the Examiner pursuant to M.P.E.P. § 706.03(d) and § 707.07(j) in order that the undersigned can place this application in allowable condition as soon as possible and without the need for further proceedings.

Very respectfully,

Hosheng Tu 3/29/2004

Hosheng Tu, applicant